Tague hit etc P5

COVERUPS!

Number 7 | Gary Mack, Editor & Publisher | February, 1983

WHO WAS REALLY IN OSWALD'S GRAVE? *Part One*

by Gary Mack

Even after the October 4, 1981 exhumation, some researchers still wondered if the Oswald imposter theory had really been laid to rest. And as usually happens with the Kennedy case, a significant new question has surfaced.

When Dallas County Medical Examiner Earl Rose autopsied Oswald at Parkland Hospital in 1963, he performed a craniotomy—the cutting off of the top and rear portion of the skull to remove the brain for examination. Eighteen years later some observers saw no trace of such an operation, leading to speculation that the skull was not that of the man killed by Jack Ruby. Furthermore, since new dental x-rays matched those taken of the real Oswald by the Marines, US Government complicity in switching bodies or records seems a possibility.

So that the record is clear on this intriguing situation, here is how the story has evolved:

Less than two months after the pathologists concluded that the body was the real Lee Harvey Oswald, a friend of Jack White called him with a strange story. The friend's relative had overheard a conversation among some employees of Baylor Medical Center, site of the body examination. A nurse had mentioned that many Baylor employees knew that the body was not Oswald and that the FBI had been at Baylor for three days prior to the exhumation (one month earlier the Dallas FBI *did* contact Michael Eddowes' attorney, Jerry Pittman, and asked if an agent could be present—Pittman thought it would be OK, but the Bureau never recontacted him). Since the relative did not know the nurse's name, further investigation seemed impossible.

One month later, in January 1982, Jack was at a Texas Christian University basketball game when he was approached by Paul Groody, the mortician who prepared Oswald for burial in 1963. Groody, who had met Jack one time some ten years earlier, remembered his interest in the assassination and picked Jack as the first person to hear his story. He told Jack that the skull may have been switched because no saw marks were visible and the "skull cap," which normally comes loose, remained completely intact. He also believed the body was the same because he recognized the positions of the hands and rings, and found the plastic viscera bag still inside the chest cavity (the use of a plastic bag for the autopsied organs was a fairly new procedure in 1963).

Groody reached his conclusions after discussions with his friend and 1963 assistant Alan Baumgardner. Alan now owns the old Miller Funeral Home where he and Groody prepared Oswald's body in 1963. Both were present for the exhumation and part of the later examination because exhumations must legally be handled by an officer of the state. It was also assumed they would notice any significant discrepancy. While both concurred in their suspicions, neither wanted to go public and start something which may very well have a simple explanation. Both men were frightened by the implications and Groody seriously considered making a deposition for release by his attorney after his death. All they wanted was for someone to investigate the possibility of a switch and, if confirmation was needed, they would supply it.

When Jack related Groody's story to me, I contacted him for further details. Fortunately, he had heard my name, and once I said Jack and I were good friends, he repeated what he knew. Again he declined to go public and urged me to get someone to investigate.

My first step was to pass the facts on to our newsroom at KXAS-TV, the Dallas/Fort Worth NBC affiliate. Unfortunately, they were just as skeptical as all the other news operations in this area—hundreds of Kennedy stories have led to nothing, trouble, or both. But without documentation, I couldn't really blame them.

In February I contacted the office of Dr. Linda Norton, who headed the examination team. She had promised a report for the Journal of Forensic Science and I figured she was still in the process of writing it. My only questions involved the release date of the report and whether or not the skull had any marks on it. Through her assistant, Norton said two or three months for the report and no comment on any specifics.

By early summer the report had still not appeared and we were no closer to solving this riddle than before. Jack and I then turned to former newspaper reporter Jim Marrs. Jim had become a journalist and freelance writer, still maintained a keen interest in the assassination, and quickly decided to get involved.

His first call was to Groody to see if he'd give him the same information. But Groody, who had been interviewed before by Marrs, wasn't talking to the "news media." He did suggest that Marrs contact Dr. Norton.

This time, Norton was able to talk directly. She still wouldn't go into any details, but when asked about her report, she said it was still being written and she didn't know when it would be completed or published. When Jim asked if they had noticed a craniotomy, she immediately replied "Oh yes, we noted it for the record."

We were quite puzzled by her answer. Groody and Baumgardner weren't beginners at their trade. Collectively they've seen thousands of "cranials" and they knew what it should look like. On November 25, 1963, Groody, with Baumgardner's assistance, removed the skull cap, prepped the inside, replaced it, then sewed the scalp closed. No pins, wires or glue were used. Both men knew that the skull cap usually falls off in the coffin after the skin has decomposed. During the examination the skull was handled many times and at some point the cap should have separated. But it didn't, and the mystery continued.

Then, on November 19, 1982, Jim Marrs appeared on a WFAA-AM radio talk show for the 19th anniversary. A caller who identified himself as "Mike" said Jim had been in his office and had mentioned a discrepancy with the skull at the time of the exhumation. When he asked Jim to explain further, Jim declined, saying that he would have to name names and sources, and he was not in a position to do that. Curiously, Jim had no knowledge of "Mike" and didn't recognize his voice.

But another caller knew the story and proceeded to reveal the basic facts. He said his brother used to work for Alan Baumgardner, and the brother had passed along the story. Now it was out in the open, and Jim, knowing of Groody's promise of silence *unless* someone else broke the story, used the opportunity to fill in some of the background and ramifications. The program host, Mel Bailey, asked Jim only one question: "Now this is a funeral director, not a medical technician?" Jim answered yes, and the host went to a commercial.

Had Bailey understood the issue, WFAA-AM could have followed up on this information. But once again, the news media failed to pursue what may be a significant breakthrough. Fortunately, other news people have been checking out this incredible story; so far, there's more evidence supporting a skull or body switch than there is for Norton's opinion.

Investigations are quietly continuing, and next month, Part 2 will include the observations at Rose Hill Cemetery and Baylor, the actions of Linda Norton, and the further attempts to resolve this issue. Meanwhile, ask anyone who's been through medical school, including your family physician, about the simple craniotomy (or cranial) autopsy procedure and you'll find that the doubts first raised by Groody and Baumgardner are entirely justified.

(And incidentally, both Groody and Baumgardner have confirmed that the FBI did fingerprint the body of Lee Harvey Oswald on the morning of November 25, 1963. Both hands were covered with ink and it took Baumgardner some time to get it all off).

THE BACKYARD PHOTOS REVISITED: THE MAGIC RING TRICK

by Jack White

A recent phone call from Bob Cutler prompted me to return to a project I meant to do several years ago.

Bob wanted to know about the Oswald finger rings in the "backyard photos" 133-A and 133-B. I had noticed in my study of the photos the inconsistencies he asked about, but had never published anything on it. So here you are, Bob.

In 133-B, at left, a prominent ring is plainly seen on the LHO third finger, *right* hand. In 133-A, at right, no ring can be seen, although there may possibly be a ring on the *left* hand. Does it make any sense for a person to switch rings between poses?

In all the other photos I've looked at, I've never noticed a ring of any sort on Oswald's right hand, although I have noticed a wedding band on the left hand in some photos. Has anyone else noticed a right-hand ring?

Another item of interest is the LHO left wrist in 133-B, at left. Note the dark shadow (beneath the bright spot on the wrist) obviously cast by a wrist watch or bracelet. Some photos show Oswald with an identification bracelet (too small to cast a shadow like this), but no photos show Oswald with a wrist watch. No list of his possessions shows a wrist watch, so far as I know. His mother claimed LHO was left-handed, and most left-handed persons would wear watches on the right wrist.

Also, the left hand in 133-B seems strangely twisted in holding the papers, and the entire arm is in a most awkward position. In 133-A, we see the left shoulder and upper arm, and the left hand holding the rifle...but the rest of the upper arm, the elbow, and the forearm are not to be seen in the position beside the body where it seems they should be. Too, the fingers on the right hand seem much too short and stubby. Compare the middle finger on each hand; measure from the middle joint to tip on each and you'll find the right finger is one finger-joint too short! Another way of judging is that the middle joint should be halfway between knuckle and tip; measure for yourself and you'll see that all four right fingers are nearly an inch short.

We'd like to hear from any of you who know about the rings, watch or bracelet, or missing anatomy parts.

FWST 2-6-83

A Nazi link to Dallas? Really?

Reviewed by
OTIS CLARK

THE FOURTH SHOT
By L. Christian Balling
Atlantic-Little, Brown; $14.50

The assassination of President John F. Kennedy has been the focus for many books both factual and fictional, as each author seeks to prove his own theory of culpability.

Among the more popular possible culprits have been the Mafia, the CIA, Fidel Castro, Nikita Khrushchev, the U.S. Army and the military-industrial complex. Any of these easily can be convicted in the reader's mind with the enormous amount of evidence now available to the authors. And now L. Christian Balling in his second novel provides a new villainous element (or should I say an even older one?), the neo-Nazis.

In Balling's complex tale, Erich Ritter — a "good German" — is called back to Berlin from heavy fighting on the Russian front by a group of high-ranking conspirators who have witnessed the atrocities at Auschwitz and the losses at Stalingrad and who know that Germany soon will fall to the Allies. But they know, too, that a secret group within the elite S.S. — the "Werewolfs" — is already planning for the survival and replanting of the Nazi seed after the premature fall of the 1,000-year Reich.

Ritter, having been chosen to infiltrate this organization, is given a new identity and a manufactured background certain to make him appealing to the S.S. Then the Werewolfs give him a third identity and send him off to America by way of Venezuela, to await his call to service. And 20 years later, in 1963, the organization Ritter hoped had died in the ashes of Germany calls upon him to perform an important task, presumably an assassination.

The plan is to kill the U.S. president as part of an ongoing effort to create world chaos that eventually will lead to a suicidal war between the two superpowers, enabling Germany to assume the world dominance that previously was denied it by those same two nations.

In his effort to reach the widest popular audience, Balling has brought together the previously unrelated themes of continuing clandestine Nazi operation and the mysterious circumstances of the Kennedy assassination without providing a bridge of reason with which to cross this chasm. The author does supply an interesting twist and an exciting finish to an incredulous tale.

DMN 2-10-83

Gas leak forces evacuation at old book depository

The Dallas County Administration Building, formerly known as the Texas School Book Depository, was evacuated Wednesday morning because of a potentially dangerous gas leak into the building.

County Fire Marshal Jim Badgett said the leak resulted from a ruptured gas line under the building and natural gas poured into the building through the electrical ducts.

The gas was discovered at 6:45 a.m. when county security officer Jimmy Esquivel opened the building.

"It hit me the moment I walked up the steps," Esquivel said. "The gas was powerful enough to give me a headache."

About 15 employees continued to work in the building, which was being aired out, until 9:40 a.m.

Badgett then ordered the evacuation because vapor analyzer readings being taken every 20 minutes in the building's basement showed the gas concentration had reached 5.3 percent. A 6.5 percent reading indicates the gas is explosive.

Lone Star Gas Co. began work on the ruptured gas line at 9:15 a.m. The work continued throughout the day, but workers were allowed to return to their offices at about 12:30 p.m.

DMN 2-10-83

Hearing to probe conspiracy charge

United Press International

WASHINGTON — A federal judge has ordered a hearing on a request for a special prosecutor to investigate charges of government conspiracy in the 1979 shooting of five Communists in a clash with the Ku Klux Klan and American Nazis.

U.S. Dist. Judge Gerhardt Geselle set a hearing Feb. 11 on the request by attorneys for survivors' families and some of the injured who belong to the Communist Worker's Party.

Five party members were killed Nov. 3, 1979, in Greensboro, N.C., just before they were to begin a "Death to the Klan" march. An all-white jury acquitted four Klansmen and two Nazis of murder and felonious riot charges in 1980.

Some of the survivors filed a $48 million suit against city, state and federal officials, Klansmen and Nazis claiming an elaborate government conspiracy led to the shootings.

Have we coddled Nazi spies?

Reviewed by
GERRY BARKER

THE BELARUS SECRET
By John Loftus
Knopf; $13.95

Here's the scenario: A contingent of Byelorussian Nazi conspirators — party to some of the most heinous crimes of the Holocaust — meld into the chaotic fabric of the post-World War II American intelligence community.

Far from being punished with their cohorts at Nuremberg, they are sheltered at some of the highest levels of government and smuggled one by one into this country under falsified immigration papers. Here, sequestered by a wall of secrecy, they lead a pastoral existence in South River, N.J.

A new piece of war fiction? No, disturbing war fact, from an ex-trial attorney for the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations.

Byelorussia, otherwise known as White Russia or White Ruthenia, is an ancient country, John Loftus explains, dominated alternately throughout most of its history by neighboring Russia or Poland. But it has had another distinction, too: "Through an accident of history, Byelorussia had become the center of the Pale of Settlement, the densest concentration of Jews in the world," Loftus writes.

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AS THE RUSSIAN COMMUNISTS advanced into Byelorussia in the late '30s, the Byelorussians in exile turned to Hitler's Germany for help. The SS tested their resolve by allowing only those who aided the *Einsatzgruppen* (task forces charged with carrying out liquidations of Communist officials, saboteurs and Jews on the Eastern Front) to become part of a civilian puppet government.

The Byelorussian leadership returned from exile in the wake of Hitler's Wehrmacht and Waffen-SS troops to direct a reign of terror that would swallow 250,000 of Byelorussia's 375,000 Jews.

• Harvard Studio

John Loftus

Later, as Hitler's empire began to collapse, the Byelorussian leaders formed the Belarus Brigade, which actually fought against the advancing Allies and gained favored status with the SS for the Byelorussian collaborators.

Then with the German option almost extinguished, the Byelorussians played their last card — an offer to the Allies to operate a spy network and underground army to fight communism.

• • •

ANXIOUS TO PENETRATE THE POST-WAR Iron Curtain, and with the forerunners of what would become the Central Intelligence Agency jockeying for power with established intelligence units in the armed forces, the Americans took the bait.

Loftus goes on to detail how the United States "hired" hundreds of Nazi collaborators, covered their tracks and stonewalled every attempt to investigate them, right up to the present day.

And for what? The "intelligence" fed to us by the Byelorussian spy network was mostly worthless. Worse, the ring was frequently and easily penetrated by double and triple agents, and used to funnel our top secrets back to Russia.

Loftus has assembled an impressive amount of research (extensively footnoted and indexed) in his effort to expose the Byelorussian fiasco, first brought to light in May on *60 Minutes*.

While we can understand the original fumblings of a neophyte intelligence agency, we can only shake our heads at how their successors compounded the sin by covering their tracks.

(Gerry Barker is Startext editor for the *Star-Telegram*.)

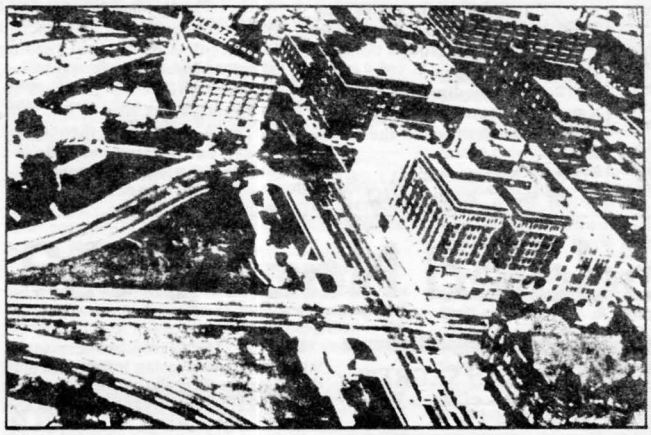
FWST 12-5-82

(The Byelorussians were a large part of the Russian community in the Dallas-Fort area when Lee and Marina were "introduced" to this select group. At least one person in a position to know still believes that the ones closest to the Oswalds were, indeed, pro-Nazi sympathizers.)

(The FBI analyzed several recordings of the shooting and used them to "prove" the BBN study of the Dallas Police tapes was in error. Later, according to Robert Blakey in April 1981, the agents who did the study admitted to the Ramsey Panel that their analysis was wrong and they didn't fully understand the BBN study. The Panel criticized the FBI's methodology in its Report, but gave it high marks for getting the "correct" answer anyway. Although the FBI scientists' meeting with the Ramsey Panel was taped, neither the recording nor a transcript has been released, and that's not likely to change. Now with recent allegations that government agents set up the confrontation, knowing it would lead to violence, one has to wonder if the Bureau had other involvement with the Ramsey Panel.

(These "sidebars" accompanied Earl Golz' articles in the November and December 1982 Gallery. One on HSCA members was never published and one on acoustics was not written.)

THE DEALEY PLAZA INVESTIGATION



PHOTOGRAPH BY UPI

For six months, FBI agents hid from the Warren Commission the wounding of a spectator standing 90 yards from where bullets struck President Kennedy and Texas Governor John Connally in the presidential limousine. James Tague, an auto salesman, was cut slightly in the face by a concrete fragment jarred loose from the impact of a missile on a curbstone.

Tague said the FBI "tried to cover me up for eight months" until the Warren Commission learned of the curbstone scar and called him to testify late in July 1964, when an assistant United States attorney in Dallas first learned about it. The federal attorney, Martha Jo Stroud, wrote a letter on June 9, 1964, to J. Lee Rankin, general counsel to the commission, and enclosed a photograph that was taken of the curbing within hours after the assassination. The newspaper cameraman who photographed the curbstone mark, Tom Dillard, had told Miss Stroud "it looked like a piece of lead had struck it." Accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly was firing copper-jacketed 6.5-millimeter bullets from a building about 200 yards from where Tague was standing.

Two days after Miss Stroud sent the letter and photo to Rankin in Washington, Warren Commission attorney Arlen Specter wrote a memo to Rankin suggesting that Tague be deposed to determine "where the missing bullet struck." That same day, in Dallas, the FBI suddenly located and interviewed a second news photographer who had filmed the curbstone mark one day after Dillard did.

In reports filed through January 1964, the FBI had repeatedly asserted three shots were fired in Dealey Plaza and all three found their mark. However, the Tague wound and curbstone mark did not force the FBI to abandon its finding. Commission attorney Specter was in the FBI's corner, as far as acknowledging only three shots were fired; he had to, because a fourth shot would have meant Oswald had an accomplice. Some of the strongest evidence the commission cited for Oswald being a lone assassin were three empty cartridge cases from his Mannlicher-Carcano rifle that were found near the sniper's perch in the depository's sixth-floor window.

However, Specter was confronted with photographic evidence that no one could have fired Oswald's rifle fast enough to first hit Kennedy and then Connally with separate shots. The film showed that no more than 1.8 seconds elapsed between their reactions to being hit. FBI rifle experts could open and close the bolt on Oswald's rifle no faster than 2.3 seconds.

Specter, therefore, was compelled to reject the FBI's finding of three direct hits. He argued that the bullet which first struck Ker through his ne same one tha three sections nearly unscath damage was fo hospital, after from Connally contended a se to the presiden missed the lim never found. I the distance to sniper's perch result of the mi have inexplica sharpshooter.

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Finally, bur Washington se dal Shaneyfel "found" the al gust 5, 1964.

HOOVER'S VENDETTA

There is no better example of J. Edgar Hoover's paranoia about public criticism of the Federal Bureau of Investigation than that of his secret, but very real, vendetta against the Dallas Police Department and its chief, Jesse Curry

After the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas, Curry made a statement to news reporters implying that the FBI had been seriously derelict as an intelligence agency in its preassassination handling of accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald. This made Hoover furious.

Hoover didn't take issue with what Curry said because, as FBI director, he had secretly censured or placed on probation 17 FBI employees for "shortcomings in connection with the investigation of Oswald prior to the assassination." However, Hoover *did* take issue with Curry for saying it to the news media.

The breach was opened on the day of JFK's assassination, when Dallas police detective Jack Revill sent a memo to Curry quoting James P. Hosty, Jr., the FBI agent in charge of monitoring Oswald's preassassination activities, stating that the FBI knew before the shooting that Oswald was "capable of committing the assassination of President Kennedy."

Hosty denied making such a statement. But Curry later repeated Hosty's alleged remarks, saying the FBI knew —but didn't inform Dallas police—that Oswald was working in a building on the presidential motorcade route.

Months later, Hoover wrote on an assistant's internal memo that the FBI "will never live down the smear which could have been so easily avoided if there had been proper supervision and initiative." He ordered the Dallas FBI office "to deal at arm's length with Dallas Police Department personnel. We will not extend training assistance, nor will we accept candidates from that department to the [FBI] National Academy."

The FBI's snub of Dallas police trainees was the topic of a meeting in early 1966, more than two years after the assassination, between Hoover and then-Dallas Mayor Erik Jonsson. In a memo about the meeting, Hoover wrote that "a breach in relations with Chief of Police Curry and his department does exist. I made it perfectly clear actions and statements by Chief

PHOTOGRAPH BY UPI

J. Edgar Hoover

Curry and some of his personnel, with respect to the bureau, clearly indicate they are incompetent, blabbermouths, and, in some instances, liars." When Jonsson left the meeting, he assured Hoover he would "immediately instruct the city manager to have a stern talk" with Curry.

Less than a month after the Hoover-Jonsson meeting, Curry resigned, citing an increase in blood pressure resulting from "the continued pressures and tensions of the office." Within months of Curry's resignation, FBI agents returned as instructors at the Dallas Police Academy, and the FBI invited the first Dallas policemen in more than two years to attend the FBI National Academy in Washington.

Hoover never told the Warren Commission of the censures. They were not made public until 13 years later, after his death in 1972.

William C. Sullivan, former assistant director in charge of the FBI's domestic intelligence division and, from 1963 to 1964, coordinator of the bureau's conspiracy investigation of the assassination, said that Hoover disciplined his men in order to protect himself from blame. The FBI director calculated the censures, Sullivan said, as a means of "protecting himself against any indictment that he was at fault in the assassination of President Kennedy."

The House Select Committee on Assassinations, which, in 1978, concluded that Oswald was not a lone assassin, found that Hoover's discipline of the 17 bureau employees "went beyond what was justified, and that the bureau's preassassination security investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald had been adequate."

THE RUBY / TIPPIT / OSWALD CONNECTION: A Basic Cast of Characters

J. Edgar Hoover: The FBI's first and only director until his death in 1972; he wasn't about to let the death of a president destroy the bureau's myth of invincibility.

Lee Harvey Oswald: As Hoover's lone nut, the most misrepresented member of the cast. Hoover couldn't afford to admit Oswald had any accomplices in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy because the FBI's reputation was at stake.

Yuri Nosenko: A KGB officer who defected to this country after the assassination and told Hoover that Oswald was a lone nut. Fifteen years later, a congressional committee declared Nosenko had lied about Oswald.

Fedora: FBI code name for another KGB official who assured Hoover that Nosenko was no liar. Fedora was recalled from his United Nations post in New York and vanished into the Soviet Union five years ago.

Richard Helms: CIA deputy director who in 1964 privately informed Chief Justice Earl Warren that the CIA could not establish Nosenko's bona fides as a defector. When later appointed CIA director, Helms testified he still wasn't certain of Nosenko's credibility.

Earl Warren: Apparently heeding Helm's advice over Hoover's, Warren persuaded his commission investigating the assassination not to even mention Nosenko in its final report.

Valeriy Kostikov: Supervisor of the KGB's assassination and sabotage department in the western hemisphere; he met with Oswald two months before the assassination.

James Hosty, Jr.: One of the few FBI agents, now retired, to admit Oswald was no nut, much less a loner. As an agent in the domestic intelligence division, he was monitoring Oswald's activities in Dallas when Oswald wrote him a threatening note for talking to his wife.

Morris Childs: Code-named "Solo" by the FBI, the American Communist Party member went to Cuba as an undercover source for Hoover shortly after the assassination and reported that Castro said Oswald vowed, in the presence of Cuban Consulate officials in Mexico City, to kill Kennedy two months before the assassination.

Fidel Castro: The Cuban premier denied to the House Select Committee on Assassinations in 1978 that he had ever heard of the Oswald threat against Kennedy before the assassination. The committee believed him.

G. Robert Blakey: As chief counsel of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, he disagreed with its evaluation that Castro was telling the truth about the Oswald threat. He also regarded Kostikov's meeting with Oswald as no more than "routine embassy business."

Warren de Brueys: FBI agent in New Orleans once accused of using Oswald as an informant during the summer before the assassination.

Adrian Alba: Oswald's friend in New Orleans who saw an FBI agent pass an envelope to Oswald through the window of a government car.

W. Guy Banister: Former FBI chief in Chicago and rabid anticommunist leader in New Orleans; he and Oswald officed in the same building. A great friend of anti-Castro Cuban exiles in New Orleans, he was suspected of taking Oswald under his wing, despite Oswald's pro-Castro antics on the street.

Delphine Roberts: Banister secretary who said she interviewed Oswald for the job of "undercover agent" in Banister's operation. She said Banister, although retired, was still working with the FBI in the summer of 1963 and probably was receiving funds from the CIA.

Mary Brengel: Banister secretary who saw rifles that were constantly propped up against her boss's office wall disappear on the day of the assassination. She also stated that Banister was not in the office all that day.

David Ferrie: Frequent visitor to Banister's office who, according to Mrs. Roberts, took Oswald to rifle practice at an anti-Castro Cuban exile training camp near New Orleans.

Silvia Odio: Claimed that two months prior to the assassination, Oswald showed up at her apartment in Dallas with two Latin men who were soliciting funds to overthrow Castro.

Loran Hall: Anti-Castro gunrunner who told FBI h Mrs. Odio's ap wasn't. The FB statement was Warren Comm **Anthony Vec** of an anti-Cas country, Veciar talking with a Veciana with fu guidance in his Castro over a **Maurice Bish** ciana thought viser, the mar saw meeting w of a downtown **Pedro Valeria** an anti-Castro Abilene, Texas note by Oswal the assassina whereabouts w **Eugene M.** salesman wh Oswald drove assassination. be back in sev cash to buy th **Jack Ruby:** planted to Da stardom with caliber revolv domen. A ma terests, includi before Castro painted himse club operator. **George Appli** tified patrons when Oswald police. As poli he alerted a row calmly w later revealed **Charles W. F** 1959 met with deciding he h criminal inform **Lewis McWill** ator and forme by Ruby in H 1959. McWillie Castro and fle **James E. Be** Ruby on Galv Texas, while t

curb was removed and taken to the FBI laboratory in Washington for spectrographic tests which showed lead and a trace of antimony in the mark. The FBI said the mark could not have been made by a direct hit of a bullet from the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle because it found no trace of copper—meaning the bullet's jacket would have had to have been shorn off in striking another object before hitting the curb.

The Warren Commission's final report, one month later, said the mark "cannot be identified conclusively with any of the three shots fired," although it might have been a fragment of the missed third shot which first hit some other object.

If so, it could have been a slug that struck the edge of a concrete apron around a manhole cover and somehow left furrows in the grass a few feet to the left of the vehicle. Thanks to the FBI, this is probably the least known area of bullet impact in Dealey Plaza. One month before the Warren Report was released, the FBI was stiff-arming any report of a bullet striking there, although the scar in the corner of the concrete manhole apron is still visible.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Hartman visited the Dallas FBI office on August 6, 1964, to report their sighting of the disarrayed turf minutes after the assassination. They said they saw "two separate gouges, more or less running parallel," in the grass near the manhole about midway between where Tague was standing and the Texas School Book Depository from where Oswald allegedly fired the shots. The gouges, however, were not in line with the shots fired from the depository building, Mrs. Hartman said, but were aligned in the direction of the grassy knoll across the street and to the right front of the limousine.

"The FBI didn't seem very interested in us," Mrs. Hartman recalled last year. "They said they felt they had all the information, that they knew everything that had happened and they really didn't need our information. They talked with us a minute and then said, 'Well, we know what that [gouges] was; that was bone from Kennedy's body [skull] where it had split off.' . . . My husband and I thought we had done all we could do; but, still and all, it sounds kind of fishy. I have never heard of a bone—have you? —that would do that."

The FBI report of the Hartmans' interview incorrectly stated that the couple found only one gouge in the grass, 18 to 24 inches long. Mrs. Hartman recalled she had pressed down along the top of each furrow to see how far they extended, and each "went much farther than that." The report also falsely quoted Hartman as saying the gouge "was in line with the general area of the Texas School Book Depository Building." This, in fact, contradicts the bureau's own explanation that a piece of Kennedy's skull struck the grass and caused the gouge. The bone couldn't have flown from the limousine and landed in the direction of the depository building unless it turned 90 degrees in midair.

Although the FBI apparently showed little interest in the Hartmans' story when they told it, agents expressed a belated curiosity and inspected the manhole area a month and a half later.

Policeman James W. Foster, who had guarded the manhole area after the shooting, had testified before the Warren Commission, five months earlier, that no bullet was recovered because "it ricocheted on out" and across Dealey Plaza in the general direction of the triple underpass and Tague. He testified the slug "caught the manhole cover right at the corner. . .where it penetrated the turf," which had grown over the edges of the concrete apron of the sewer.

Fort Worth newspaper photographer Harry Cadluck took several shots of Foster "standing there to secure the piece of kicked-up turf. . . . There was more than one piece of turf knocked up. But that was the biggest piece turned up, like someone shoved a screwdriver in and peeled it back a little bit." Cadluck said a second gouge looked the same, "but not as big."

The Warren Commission, for some reason, cited only Foster and another witness to the turf shot, but not the Hartmans or Cadluck, who had photos to verify his story. Based on the FBI's metal-detector search ten months after the assassination and one week before the report was issued, the commission's final report stated "examination of the area, however, disclosed no indication that a bullet struck" the turf or the cement manhole apron.

THE DEALEY PLAZA INVESTIGATION

The FBI could not find 92 frames of movie film showing the sixth-floor window where Oswald was supposedly perched. A film taken by amateur photographer Charles L. Bronson six minutes before the assassination showed something moving in each section of the double window. The bureau, seeking a photographic view of the sniper's window near the time of the shooting, looked at Bronson's film and discarded it three days after the assassination. An agent reported the film "failed to show the building from which the shots were fired."

Bronson discovered he had filmed the sniper's window in late 1978, when he took the film from storage in his closet and gave it a close examination. Congressman Louis Stokes of Ohio, chairman of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, wrote Attorney General Griffin Bell in early 1979, saying computer "enhancement efforts with this film [by the Justice Department] are warranted [because it] may show movement by more than one person in the vicinity of the sixth-floor southeast window." The FBI later made a lame and unsuccessful attempt to arrange a computer analysis of the film through Bronson's lawyer.

At the approximate time Bronson was filming two moving images in the sixth-floor window, depository secretary Carolyn Arnold was leaving the building to watch the presidential motorcade. On her way out, she said she saw Oswald sitting in one of the booths in the lunchroom on the second floor. "He was alone as usual and appeared to be having lunch," she said. "I did not speak to him, but I recognized him."

Policeman Marrion Baker and depository manager Roy Truly met Oswald in the doorway of the same second-floor lunchroom at 12:32 P.M., only two minutes after the assassination. The question arises whether Oswald ever left the lunchroom.

In 1978, Mrs. Arnold, by then remarried under another name, was surprised to learn that FBI reports of two interviews with her in 1963 made no mention of her sighting Oswald in the lunchroom. She said she "would have thought" she told the FBI during both interviews of her encounter with Oswald in the lunchroom. The FBI report of her first interview, four days after the assassination, stated that after she left the depository "a few minutes before 12:15 P.M.," she stood about 30 feet in front of the building to watch the motorcade and "thought she caught a fleeting glimpse of Lee Harvey Oswald standing in the hallway" on the first floor.

"That is completely foreign to me," Mrs. Arnold said in 1978. "It would have forced me to have been turning back around to the building when, in fact, I was trying to watch the parade. Why would I be looking back inside the building? That doesn't make any sense."

Another witness, Arnold Rowland, told the FBI he spotted two men through the sixth-floor windows in the depository building at about 12:15 P.M.—about ten minutes before Mrs. Arnold saw Oswald four floors below. He said a black man, thought to be Oswald's sniper perch, was standing in the window. He didn't notice a weapon in the man's hands, but he saw a white man holding a rifle in the far southwest corner window of the sixth floor.

Rowland, who was standing less than one block east of the depository, first publicly told his story about seeing a second man on the sixth floor more than three months after the assassination. Testifying before the Warren Commission, he was asked why he hadn't told the same story to the FBI in several interviews. He said he had:

"At that time I told them I did see the Negro man there and they [FBI] told me it didn't have any bearing or such on the case right then. In fact, they just the same as told me to forget it now. . . . They didn't seem interested at all. They didn't pursue the point. They didn't take it down in the notation as such."

An inmate in the county jail across the street from the depository said he and others in the sixth-floor cell observed two men with a rifle in the depository sixth-floor window at about the time the Bronson film was taken. Johnny L. Powell said the men were "fooling with" a scope on the rifle when he looked. Powell and his fellow inmates weren't questioned by the FBI, although "quite a few of us saw them," he said. "Everybody was trying to watch the parade and all that. We were looking across the street because it was directly straight across."

Minutes before the assassination, Gordon L. Arnold was walking behind the wooden fence on the grassy knoll in Dealey Plaza. Arnold wanted to get a good position to take movie film of the motorcade, but he was quickly approached by a man in a suit who "walked towards me and said that I shouldn't be up there." He challenged the man's authority and the man "showed me a badge and said he was with the Secret Service and that he didn't want anybody up there."

Arnold then retreated around the fence to the grassy knoll where he waited for the motorcade to come down Elm Street. A short time later, he said he "felt" the vibration of a shot from behind him, only inches over his left shoulder and to the right front of the president's car.

Arnold was the only person known to have met anyone who flashed false Secret Service credentials in Dealey Plaza before the shooting started. After the shooting, at least four other people, including two policemen, encountered men who identified themselves as Secret Service agents in the parking lot behind the wooden fence or near the depository.

Their credentials had to be fake, because none of the 28 Secret Service agents protecting the president in Dallas were on foot at the scene shortly before or after the shooting, according to the Warren Report. All but one of the counterfeit agents wore business suits. The one who didn't was wearing sports clothes and "had dirty-looking hands or fingernails," said Dallas policeman Joe Marshall Smith.

Smith met his phantom agent in the parking lot behind the wooden fence and drew his pistol. Just as he put his gun in his holster, the man in sports clothes "showed me that he was a Secret Service agent," Smith said. He said the man displayed the "regular identification" of the Secret Service "in a wallet and folder."

Arnold's story was not available to the bureau, because, two days after the assassination, he was on a plane reporting for army duty at Fort Wainwright in Alaska.

The other encounters of policemen and civilians with fake Secret Service agents in Dealey Plaza were related to the FBI and then, later, to the Warren Commission in 1964. From all available government documents on the assassination, nothing indicates the bureau even opened an investigation of the matter.

Chappaquiddick records were withheld

FWST 3-12-80

Phone company only submitted one of four lists of Kennedy's calls

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WASHINGTON — Records of Sen. Edward Kennedy's telephone calls in the hours after the accident at Chappaquiddick were withheld by the telephone company from an inquest into the death of Mary Jo Kopechne without the knowledge of the assistant district attorney who asked for them.

The records, which had been subpoenaed as a key piece of information in the case, could help confirm or dispute Kennedy's account of what happened after he drove off the Dyke Bridge with Miss Kopechne in his car shortly before midnight on July 18, 1969.

The records became a matter of interest to The New York Times in an effort to resolve questions about the activities of Kennedy and his associates in the 10 crucial hours between the time of the accident and the time the senator reported it to the police.

The Times found that the telephone company submitted to the court only one of at least four lists of calls in its possession. Kennedy said in an interview Tuesday that the only calls he made were those he described in the inquest testimony, and none of those calls were on the list submitted.

But the senator, who had been questioned about the list several times over the last decade, said he had always assumed that telephone company officials had complied fully with the court subpoena. And he stood by his previous account that he made no calls before 8 a.m. July 19.

The Edgartown District Court, which conducted the January 1970 inquest, had issued a subpoena for "all calls" billed to any of the senator's telephone credit cards the day of the accident and the next day. Armand Fernandes, the assistant district attorney who handled this aspect of the case, said in a recent interview that he considered the records the foundation for assessing testimony by Kennedy.

Instead, attorneys for the New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. now say they selected a list of 16 calls and gave only these to the court. They said they chose this course independently and came under no pressure from the senator or from others on his behalf. The company's copies of the complete records were later destroyed as a matter of routine, they said.

* * *

FERNANDES SAID in the interview that he had not known the records submitted were incomplete. He said he had believed the records could indicate whether the accident happened when the senator said it did, shortly before midnight, by revealing whether or not calls were made in the middle of the night.

Fernandes said he also thought the records might help confirm or contradict Kennedy's contention that he failed to report the accident to police immediately, as the law requires, because he spent the night in a state of confusion and shock. Fernandes wanted to find out, he said, whether Kennedy or his associates had the presence of mind to make telephone calls during the 10-hour delay.

There is no way at this point to know whether the missing records would support Kennedy's story at a time when opinion surveys show that a growing proportion of the public doubts it, or whether they would indicate that he and his associates began trying to handle the political implications, legal questions and public information aspects of Miss Kopechne's death before reporting it to the police or emergency agencies.

Repeated recent efforts to persuade Kennedy's associates to discuss the period after the accident were fruitless. They refused, as they have for 10 years, to clarify the sequence of events on a night still cloaked in mystery, when the senator's deeds and words were, as he afterward described them, "inexplicable, inconsistent and inconclusive."

Kennedy said he had not instructed his aides and friends to refrain from talking with reporters. "Some have chosen to engage in interviews and conversations," he said. "Others have not. I left that completely up to their discretion."

Kennedy said, however, that he still had a lawyer-client relationship with those who gave him legal advice after the accident, and that he did not want them to talk with reporters.

* * *

IN LOOKING into the matter of the telephone records, The Times learned these things:

- New England Telephone officials went to the inquest with at least four separate lists of telephone calls but submitted only one, which they said would be "helpful" to the court. Fernandes said he knew nothing of the additional lists.

- Attorneys for the company had been told that the senator used a credit card issued by the New York Telephone Co. to Park Agency, a Kennedy family company, and they took Park Agency records to the inquest. But Fernandes said he never heard of Park Agency or these records. Kennedy said Tuesday that his calls after the accident were billed to the Park Agency card and that, as far as he knew, records of these calls no longer existed.

- The list that was submitted to the inquest contained only calls made from Martha's Vineyard and billed to New England Telephone, and did not include a single call made by the senator himself the day after the accident. The first call was placed from a telephone some distance from where the senator was at that time; the others were made after he had left the island.

- The list submitted showed that the first call billed to the senator's account after the accident was made at 10:57 a.m. on July 19. But New England Telephone officials said recently, after two months of questions, that a call apparently was made at 7:52 a.m. They said they could give no further details because all the records have been destroyed.

- A New England Telephone official said that within a week after the accident, his superiors had him check calls made from telephones the senator might have used and told him to lock in his safe the records he obtained. But other company officials said that no search was conducted until a month later, at the court's request.

- The senator testified that his first call after the accident was made shortly after 8 a.m. in an effort to reach his brother-in-law, Stephen E. Smith. On Tuesday Kennedy said he had known that Smith was in Spain and called a family friend, Helga M. Wagner, to get Smith's number. Kennedy said he did not ask Mrs. Wagner to make calls on his behalf. Mrs. Wagner said Tuesday, after earlier denying it, that Kennedy called her between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m.

- Inquest testimony, reiterated by Kennedy Tuesday, was that Kennedy's next call was not made until at 9 a.m., when he telephoned an aide, David Burke. But three persons, including a former key assistant to the senator, have said in recent interviews that they had already received calls relating to the accident by then.

Charles R. Parrott, the lawyer who represented New England Telephone at the inquest, said the company's response to the subpoena was proper because all pertinent records were brought to court. He said that after he submitted the list, he was not asked for further records, and that he had discussed the matter with those conducting the inquest.

Edmund Dinis, the district attorney who handled the inquest, refused to discuss any aspect of the case with The Times.

Long before the inquest, Kennedy's telephone records were of interest to the local police, to New England Telephone and to the Nixon White House. Their importance became clear in the days immediately after the accident, but they then were largely ignored for 10 years.

* * *

ON AUG. 13, 1969, The Manchester Union Leader, a strongly conservative newspaper in New Hampshire that has been antipathetic to the Kennedy family, published a story that Kennedy had made 17 calls in the middle of the night after the accident. A phone company official denied that at the time.

The Union Leader article purported to be based on telephone records, which were never fully detailed. The writer, Aurthur C. Egan Jr., now deceased, identified one of his sources as James T. Gilmartin, a lawyer and real estate broker living in the Bronx.

Gilmartin told The Times that a week or two after the accident he obtained records from a friend who worked for the telephone company in Boston but refused to identify his source. He said he no longer had copies of the records.

A person who reportedly saw Egan's records was Anthony T. Ulasewicz, a former New York City police detective who would later be convicted on tax evasion charges arising from his role as a conduit for "hush money" to the Watergate burglars. Ulasewicz was sent to Chappaquiddick by the Nixon White House shortly after the accident. He said he traced Kennedy's movements, and later saw telephone records indicating that the senator or his associates had made calls in the middle of the night. Ulasewicz has said he never had copies of these records.

Just after the accident the Edgartown police chief, Dominick J. Arena, began gathering evidence to prosecute Kennedy for leaving the scene. He said recently that he knew then that Kennedy had been seen near a pay telephone at the Chappaquiddick ferry landing before the accident was reported.

Walter E. Steele, the county prosecutor working with Arena, said he checked for long-distance calls from that telephone by making an informal request to a telephone company representative in the Falmouth, Mass., office. Steele, now a judge on Martha's Vineyard, said he was told either that there were no such toll calls or that the records were not immediately available; he could not remember which. Kennedy and his aides testified at the inquest that he made at least one long-distance call from that telephone.

Arena said he dropped his inquiry after Kennedy pleaded guilty on July 25 to leaving the scene of an accident. On that same day, one week after the accident, Kennedy made a television speech giving his version of what happened.

New England Telephone executives and their attorneys assert that they did not begin checking records until Aug. 26, 1969, when John J. O'Connor, manager of the Falmouth office, received a subpoena from the court.

O'Connor has said, however, that executives from his company's headquarters in Boston asked him, early in the week after the accident, to check whether there was a telephone in the Chappaquiddick cottage at which Kennedy, Miss Kopechne and 10 other persons held a party the night of the accident.

O'Connor said he believed the instructions came from John F. Desmond, then a staff attorney with New England Telephone. Desmond denied giving any such orders.

On the Tuesday or Wednesday after the Friday night accident, O'Connor said, he went to the cottage and confirmed that it had no telephone. The cottage was then owned by Sidney K. Lawrence, a New York attorney who has since died. According to Camille Lawrence, the telephone then listed to the Lawrence family was actually in a locked studio behind the cottage.

O'Connor said that his superiors had also asked him to determine whether the telephone bill for the Shiretown Inn, where Kennedy spent the night of the accident, showed any long-distance calls the senator might have made. He obtained a bill for the hotel ahead of its regular monthly statement, he said, and found no calls that seemed pertinent. The senator later testified that he tried unsuccessfully to make a long-distance call on a pay telephone at the hotel.

O'Connor said he was told to keep the results of his research locked in the safe at his Falmouth office. He also said he was summoned to Boston within two weeks after the accident "to explain what I knew about the whole thing" to John M. Gepson, then vice president and general counsel of New England Telephone, and to Desmond. Gepson has since died.

Official urges the auction of Chappaquiddick bridge

FWST 3-21-81

EDGARTOWN, Mass. (AP) — The Chappaquiddick Island bridge, site of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's 1969 car accident that claimed the life of a young woman passenger, should be auctioned off to save repair costs, a local official says.

Selectwoman Edith Potter proposed Thursday the sale of Dike Bridge, saying it needs $20,000 worth of repairs. Ms. Potter said Edgartown can't afford the work because of tax-cutting Proposition 2½, which limits property tax income.

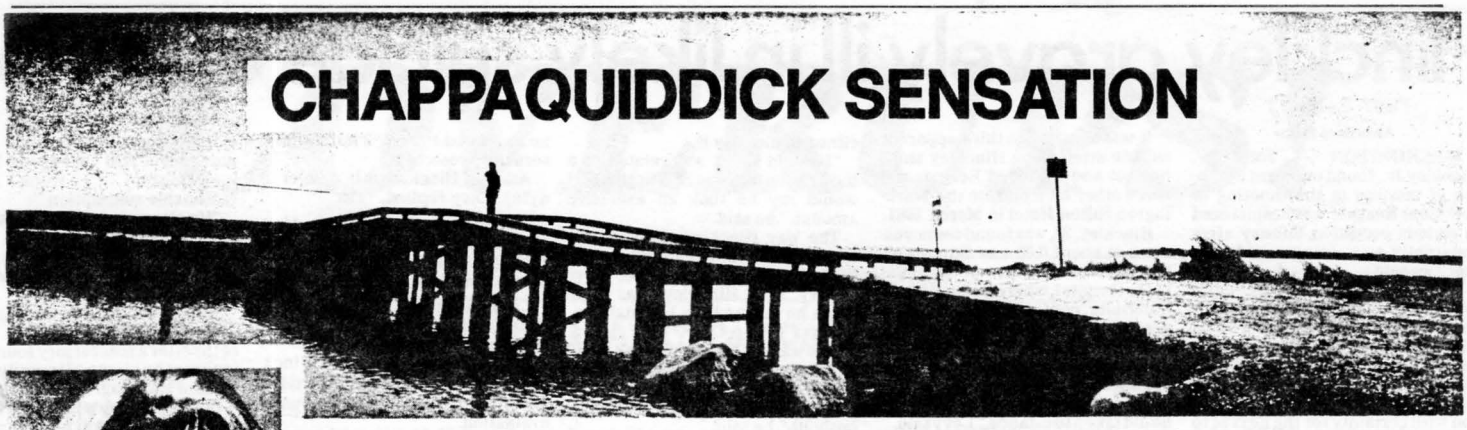
Mary Jo Kopechne died when the car driven by the Massachusetts Democrat went into the water at the bridge.

Q *I heard a rumor that the Republicans have hired a private detective, Anthony Ulasewicz, to fly to Monaco to investigate what role Sen. Ted Kennedy played in the death of Princess Grace. Is this true? —E.C., Chula Vista, Calif.*

PARADE 11-28-82

A No. It's a ghoulish joke, stained with sarcasm. In July 1969, less than a day after the body of Mary Jo Kopechne was extricated from a car driven by Kennedy at Chappaquiddick, Mass., the Nixon White House ordered Ulasewicz to the scene. He posed as a reporter for four days, asking Kennedy embarrassing questions at various press conferences.

CHAPPAQUIDDICK SENSATION



Blockbuster book's shocking revelations could wreck the Senator's political ambitions forever

Teddy Kennedy did NOT dive in to save Mary Jo, says author

By IVOR KEY

AN EXPLOSIVE new book claims that Ted Kennedy lied when he said he tried to save Chappaquiddick victim Mary Jo Kopechne from drowning — and reveals startling new details about the wild party which preceded her death.

The book, which sources close to the author say shows Kennedy could have been charged with manslaughter in Mary Jo's death, is reportedly a major reason why Kennedy decided not to run for the Presidency in 1984.

And the sources add that the way in which the book answers the enduring mysteries of what really happened to Mary Jo (left) that fateful night could even drive Kennedy from the Senate.

Said one of the sources close to author Leo Damore: "The book will show Kennedy to be a coward and a liar, and that if the whole truth had come out at the time, he could have been charged with manslaughter on the grounds that his negligence resulted in an accident that caused death."

At Mary Jo's inquest, Kennedy claimed he repeatedly dived into the chilly waters of Chappaquiddick in vain attempts to save her after their car had plunged off the bridge.

But the book reportedly says:

● Soon after the fatal accident, Kennedy arrived back at the isolated cottage in which he and Mary Jo had partied through the night with his clothes dry.

Damore has reportedly talked to one guest who has never before been named as having been at the party, and learned that the senator did not get his clothes wet.

After the accident which killed Mary Jo Kopechne, Ted Kennedy explained what happened on TV — but his version of the tragic events has always been in doubt.

"The book will show Kennedy to be a coward and a liar"

● There are startling new details of the party, which was attended by Kennedy, five of his young secretaries. Large quantities of alcohol were consumed.

● Kennedy made telephone calls to aides on the mainland before he reported the accident to police in Edgartown. Kennedy claimed his first call was to police. The author is reportedly in possession of telephone company records which proved Kennedy's contention to be false.

● Less than three minutes after the fatal accident, Kennedy could have summoned help by walking 400 feet to a lighted house which had a phone.

Instead, Kennedy said, he spent 15 minutes running back to the party cottage to summon help.

Said the source close to Damore: "It's a minute-by-minute account of what happened that night.

"The documents and memos that the author has have led him to conclude there was a massive cover-up in the whole mess."

There were six unmarried women — Mary Jo was the oldest, at 28 — at the party on Chappaquiddick Island 14 years ago.

As well as Kennedy, the male guests were Joe Gargan, 39, a close Kennedy friend; Paul Markham, 39, another friend of Ted's; Charles Tretter, 30, a Kennedy aide; John Crimmins, 63, a chauffeur; and Raymond LaRosa, 41, a Massachusetts civil defense official.

But the full story has not been told, says Damore — and on the morning after the death of Mary Jo, Kennedy himself hid the fact that it had happened remarkably well. Freshly groomed and in white loafers, white trousers and a polo shirt, he looked untroubled as he strolled from the Shiretown Inn on Martha's Vineyard at 7:30 a.m.

Betraying nothing unusual in speech or manner, he chatted amiably about the weather and yacht races to a friend until 8 a.m.

Damore, whose previous works include The Cape Cod Years of John F. Kennedy, decided to investigate Chappaquiddick after he came across documents while researching a book in New England. Damore apparently found the Chappaquiddick documents and memos because they were misfiled in the file folders of one of the key people who'd been part of the Chappaquiddick investigation.

Working in Provincetown, he became friendly with Edmund Dinis, the district attorney responsible for investigating Chappaquiddick.

Said the source close to Damore: "He had documents proving Kennedy lied at the time. The book will answer most of the questions raised after Kennedy gave his own brief account of what happened."

Damore, 52, who lives in Old Saybrook, Conn., is described by colleagues as "a very painstaking reporter who doesn't let anyone off the hook once he smells a story."

A publishing source who is interested in his manuscript said: "The author believes, and has some evidence, that the whole accident story told by Kennedy was a cover-up, and Mary Jo in fact died a different way."

Damore's book reportedly answers some of the eight basic questions which have remained mysteries since the day Mary Jo died.

1. Where was Kennedy really taking Mary Jo when he claimed he took a wrong turn in his car and plunged off the death bridge?
2. Did Kennedy actually attempt to rescue Mary Jo, as claimed?
3. Why did Kennedy not summon help immediately?
4. Could Mary Jo have been saved?
5. Did the accident happen the way Kennedy explained it?
6. Is Kennedy telling the truth when he says he swam across the harbor channel from Chappaquiddick Island to Martha's Vineyard?
7. Why did Kennedy wait 10 hours to report the accident?
8. Was there a cover-up?

A spokesman at Kennedy's office in Washington said: "We have no comment. We have no knowledge of the book or if in fact it is to be published."

MORE ON TEDDY ... Topic A 'round town: **Teddy K's** future. One longtime Demo pal lays out the projected Kennedy strategy, aimed neatly at an '88 presidential plunge: "He needs five years. Joan, comfortable with her $4 million settlement, must remarry. There must be no moaning about 'poor Joan.' After a church annulment, if possible, he remarries. His second wife is Miss Clean. A **Lacey Neuhaus** — never-wed, low-profile, picture-pretty, Catholic. Maybe Southern or Texan. (Handy at vote time.) That upcoming tome on Chappaquiddick comes out, say next year. Stolen police records of the event resurface. The public balks. Over three years, it digests. Dust settles. Hard Senate work burnishes his image. The kids are grown. The '88 election approaches. And off he roars at full speed again." Incredible how people gossip, really.

●

CHATTER THAT MIGHT MATTER ... Icy silence and stone-wafting stillness enshroud book-to-be *Chappaquiddick* and its mystery author. Random House will name no names, agent **Lucianne Goldberg**'s clam-quiet and records that vanished from the Edgartown courthouse still haven't reappeared.

The rumor mill grinds that there'll be nothing between covers 'til election '84 time ...

DMN 11-7-82 DIANA McLELLAN (left)

DMN 12-15-82 DIANA McLELLAN (left below)

Publishing Notes From All Over

NEW YORK/FEBRUARY 21, 1983

.... A Cape Cod "official" who misfiled some notes was the starting point for author Leo Damore's attempt at a "definitive" account of Chappaquiddick, says a publishing insider. The writer, who is said to be receiving a $300,000 advance from Random House, had been given the official's files while reporting on two sensational Cape Cod murders. They had been committed by a handyman the year Mary Jo Kopechne died after partying with Senator Ted Kennedy. Says the insider, "Leo was reading about these girls who were chopped up and all of a sudden he was reading about how they covered up what really happened to Kopechne." Damore is believed to be convinced that Kennedy never tried to save Kopechne. A Kennedy spokesman called this and the cover-up charge "preposterous."

Kennedy: *New information?*

Hinckley gravely ill in likely suicide attempt

FWST 2-14-83

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — John W. Hinckley Jr., found innocent by reason of insanity in the shooting of President Reagan, was hospitalized in serious condition Sunday after apparently attempting suicide, authorities said.

Hinckley, connected to a respirator, may be in danger of dying, but "he is stable and we believe he'll be all right," said Dr. James Levy, president of Greater Southeast Community Hospital, where Hinckley was taken. "We will not be able to tell you with certainty for the next 24 to 48 hours whether he's out of the woods."

It was at least the third apparent suicide attempt by Hinckley since he shot and wounded Reagan and three other men outside the Washington Hilton Hotel in March 1981.

Hinckley, 27, was found semiconscious at about 8:30 a.m. Sunday on the floor of his room at St. Elizabeths Hospital, where he has been in indefinite confinement since last year's trial, said Wayne Pines, a spokesman for St. Elizabeths. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation and oxygen were administered.

"There is every reason to believe he did take a substance," Levy said.

He said doctors have some idea what the substance was, but he declined to identify it.

"I would say it was related to a medication taken at St. Elizabeths. I would say he took an excessive amount," he said.

The way Hinckley obtained the medication is under investigation, Pines said.

Levy said Hinckley was blue when he reached the hospital Sunday.

"He was not breathing at all well" and the level of acid in his blood was raised severely, he said.

"He has improved but is still seriously ill," he said.

Levy said Hinckley was on a respirator in the critical care unit, where he has round-the-clock nursing and security protection.

Asked if Hinckley is in danger of dying, Levy replied, "Yes."

"There are indications he had fallen from the bed to the floor because the nightstand next to the bed had overturned," he said.

Levy said there were abrasions on Hinckley's chin and knees, but he wasn't sure what caused them.

Asked about the substance Hinckley took, Pines said it usually takes about 24 hours to make a complete evaluation.

He said it was "a little early" to characterize the incident as a suicide attempt. But, pressed by reporters, he said that given Hinckley's history, "I think it's a reasonable assumption."

"He attempted to commit suicide this morning," Detective Mil McClary of the District of Columb police criminal investigation division said Sunday morning.

Hinckley last year was ordered confined indefinitely at St. Elizabeths after a federal jury found hi innocent by reason of insanity in t Reagan shooting.

Before Sunday's incident, Hinckley attempted to kill himself at lea twice since the Reagan assassination attempt.

FWST 2-15-83

Hinckley listed in fair condition

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Presidential assailant John W. Hinckley Jr. survived a life-threatening crisis Monday, but authorities refused to say what substance he swallowed in his third apparent attempt at suicide since he has been in federal custody.

Hinckley, 27, was listed in fair condition after his stomach was pumped at Greater Southeast Community Hospital.

Dr. James Levy, president of the hospital, said the toxic level in Hinckley's body by late Monday afternoon was only 20 percent of what it had been when he was brought in Sunday in a semi-conscious state and with his life in jeopardy.

Levy said neither Hinckley nor his lawyers gave permission to make public what the "toxic substance" had been, and therefore, the hospital wouldn't do so.

Hinckley had been taking the anti-depressant drug imipramine. But Wayne Pines, a spokesman for the mental hospital where Hinckley had been held before his latest brush with death, said patients are supposed to be under the watch of attendants whenever they take medication.

Pines declined to offer any theory of how Hinckley may have secreted away a dangrous substance.

Stephanie McNeill, a spokesman at the hospital, said that Hinckley was expected to be returned to St. Elizabeth Hospital sometime soon.

Hinckley was found semi-conscious Sunday on the floor of his room at the mental hospital, where he had been confined since his acquittal by reason of insanity last June. Officials said he was close to dying.

Since then, his condition has not permitted questioning about what he took or how he got it, Pines said. Hinckley was moved to intensive care at Southeast Community Hospital.

(Also on February 14, NBC News revealed some of Hinckley's written admissions that he was not alone when he fired shots at Reagan. Transcripts of the notes, which were ruled inadmissable at the trial, listed a name and initials of others who assisted him in the months prior to the assassination attempt. Can anyone supply a clipping about the NBC story, or a followup by some other news agency? I do have a tape of the NBC report, which will be transcribed for the next issue.)

BRIEFS....Dr. Barger's list of recommended further studies of the DPD recordings has been received by Blakey - it includes a study of the Z film showing the north end of Houston (see last issue); Barger's point-by-point rebuttal of the Ramsey Report will be turned over to former HSCA head Louis Stokes next month....Earl Golz has been named editor of a new magazine, XL, to be distributed exclusively at all 7-11 stores; targeted for male customers (sorry, no centerfolds), XL will debut with a June issue....A new syndicated TV show, Lie Detector, recently featured Jerry Ray, brother of James Earl Ray, on shows 15 and 18; the tests, administered by recognized polygraph expert Ed Gelb, proved Jerry did not rob an Illinois bank to finance the killing of MLK (as the HSCA implied) and was not involved in the murder....Host F. Lee Bailey urged Jerry to convince James to also take a polygraph, and he agreed to ask him; Bailey and Gelb remind viewers that the polygraph is accepted evidence in over 80% of all Federal courts; the show's producer has a toll-free number to call if you would like to appear: 1-800-LIE TEST (Charles Harrelson, you're allowed one phone call)....Jim Tague, the only bystander wounded during the JFK assassination, is alive and well; he's been appearing on some TV commercials for his employer, Late Chevrolet - I guess he's still fascinated with a line of cars.

COVERUPS! is published monthly with 8 or more pages of useful information for JFK researchers and historians. Subscription price in North America is $1.00 (US) per issue; residents of other countries should write for foreign rates. Back issues are available at your regular subscription price. Your subscription expires with the issue number on your address label. Original manuscripts, articles and newspaper clippings are always appreciated—your contributions are essential for a good newsletter!

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